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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BALTIMORE MAN CONVICTED AND SENTENCED IN MURDER PROSECUTION**

Baltimore, Maryland- Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, and Patricia C. Jessamy, State's Attorney for Baltimore City, announced today that Jamal Barnes, 25, of the 4300-block of Seminole Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, was convicted of the August 8 - 9, 2001 carjacking and death of Yvette Beakes. The defendant was immediately sentenced by the Honorable Andre M. Davis to life imprisonment. There is no parole in the federal system.

Three other defendants -- Larry Walker, 17, of the 2200 block of Homewood Avenue, Brian Wilson, 17, of the 2600-block of Garrett Avenue, Baltimore and Brian McMillan, 19, of the 2500-block of Garrett Avenue, Baltimore, all pleaded guilty in connection with the same incident in Baltimore City Circuit Court in February, 2002, to first degree murder and related offenses. None of the three defendants in state court has been sentenced to date.

According to the federal indictment, a statement of facts attached to Barnes' plea agreement, and a statement read into the record at the time of the pleas of the three other defendants in state court, Jamal Barnes was accused of passing a stolen check for \$1367 at a check-cashing business on Park Heights

Avenue on July 19, 2002. The proprietor of the check-cashing business warned Barnes to make good on the check or face possible prosecution. Barnes then recruited the three associates to assist him in a carjacking to obtain some money to make good on the check.

On the night of August 8, 2002, the four set out in a van with Barnes driving. They followed several vehicles, looking for someone who appeared wealthy and for the opportunity to bump into the chosen car with no one around. They spotted Beakes' 2001 Acura on a highway south of Baltimore. Beakes was last seen by people who knew her between 10:00 or 11:00 pm on August 8th at Pickles Pub in downtown Baltimore. Barnes followed Beakes' car into Glen Burnie. He then bumped into the rear of her vehicle at an intersection close to the victim's residence.

Beakes came up to Barnes' window to ask for insurance information. Walker got out of the door on the passenger side of the van wearing a ski-mask and holding a semiautomatic handgun. Wilson followed him to the rear of the van. Walker then grabbed Beakes and ordered her into the van. She screamed repeatedly but complied with some resistance. Wilson got into Beakes' car and drove it. Beakes was tied up and her head was covered. Barnes then proceeded to drop off McMillan at his residence in Baltimore.

Barnes and the other two men obtained Beakes' ATM card, elicited her PIN and drove the van to a bank in Catonsville. The three men attempted several ATM transactions eventually making a successful withdrawal of \$500 at 1:55 am on August 9th. Barnes then drove to a wooded area on Athol Avenue in southwest Baltimore. The men untied Beakes' legs, turned up the music in the van, and led Beakes into the woods. Barnes then shot Ms. Beakes in the head killing her.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, Barnes made several unsuccessful efforts to withdraw more money from Beakes' bank account. When the Acura was found parked near Barnes' house in southwest Baltimore on August 10th, Baltimore City Homicide detectives joined in the search. Beakes' body was recovered on August 12<sup>th</sup> after Walker took detectives to the wooded location.

The case was investigated by Baltimore City Homicide detectives and agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and explosives. The case was jointly prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert R. Harding and Jonathan Mastrangelo, and Assistant State's Attorney Sharon Holback.